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From the Vault: Furman's Angel

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Furman's Angel

Putto has kept watch over the rose garden for more than 50 years.

BY JOHN ROBERTS

Since his arrival on campus in the late 1950s, Putto has been the victim of countless crimes.

Initials have been etched into his bronzed body and toilet paper strewn over his wings. Putto (no one knows exactly how he got his name) has even suffered the embarrassment of having undergarments draped across his curly locks.

And, of course, there have been The Citadel cadets. On more than one occasion, maintenance workers have scrubbed light blue and white paint from his chubby form. Comforted by his companion, a baby dolphin, Putto has endured these indignities and more.

But there have been good times, too. From his familiar perch in the romantic rose garden, the cherub has witnessed untold amorous advances. Maybe that's why he's smiling. And he's

been a guest of honor at hundreds of weddings.

Through the years, Putto has become a Furman icon. His impish grin has endeared several generations of students. In 2001, students and alumni became concerned when Putto vanished.

Had he been abducted? Perhaps he had grown weary of the misdeeds and had simply flown away.

To the relief of all, he soon returned a bit cleaner and polished. For many years, the Furman angel was the centerpiece of the rose garden. A decade ago, he was moved a few feet away and now keeps watch over the garden from underneath an arched brick stairway.

For the aged statue, this shady, protected area seems suitable. He is getting older now, and the new home offers protection from the sun and rain. Putto is still smiling. So, he must agree. ●

FUmerical

Fun facts and figures about the Furman class of 2021

Seven hundred and twenty joined the Furman family this fall. The group, the most diverse in Furman history, includes . . .

 **196**

Captains of a Sports Team

105 

Club Presidents

14 

Valedictorians and Salutatorians

14 

Student Body Presidents



11

Drum Majors



158

Students of Color



1

European Honeybee Genome Researcher



1

Judo National Champion